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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Tibet

DATE DISTR. 12 Sep. 1951

SUBJECT 1. Communications in Tibet
2. Tibetan Radio Stations

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(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
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1. Mail is carried by runners between Lhasa and Gyangtse (89-40, 28-29), Gyangtse and Zhikatse (06-53, 29-15), and Gyangtse and Phari Dzong (09-10, 27-45). There are post houses every 5½ miles, the distance covered by each runner, along the route.
2. Messages¹ are carried by couriers who change horses at every stage, and are allowed to stop for eating only while their mounts are being changed. The stages are 15 or 20 miles apart, and the horses are provided by the local people, as a form of taxation. The couriers are timed by the dzongpons of each district they traverse.
3. A single telephone line runs along the main caravan route from Lhasa to Gyangtse. From Gyangtse to Gangtok the telephone is operated by Indians, but Tibetans are permitted to use the line.
4. The Tibetan Government controls radio stations in Lhasa, Yatung (08-53, 27-26) and Zhikatse, with a fourth at Gyamda Dzong (T'aichao, 93-07, 30-01). The stations in Ch'angtu (97-07, 31-10) and Cartok (K'aerhtu, 80-22, 31-45) were believed, in August 1951, to be in Communist hands.
5. The station at Yatung was run by Reginald Fox, and that in Lhasa was operated by Jigme Surkhang, who did not enjoy the work and wished to be released from this service. The station at Zhikatse is run by a Chinese Moslem or Turki who speaks English, Tibetan and Urdu.
6. Although the Chinese Communists have stated that they were willing to employ anyone except Americans or Nationalist Chinese, Reginald Fox said that unless he had written permission to work for the Tibetan Government, from MAO Tse-tung, he would leave Tibet when the Chinese Communists arrived.²

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. The context indicates that official messages are meant.

25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. The press has reported Fox's move to Kalimpong.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. In mid-August it was reported that a team of Chinese telecommunications experts had left Calcutta for Lhasa. According to an announcement made 25 August, the first stations to be set up in the Chinese Communist radio network in Tibet were to be at Yatung and Gyangtse.

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